

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /147 W

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P R 261213Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8681

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS : LEFTIST OPPOSITION

THROWS IN THE TOWEL

REF: LISBON 3860

SUMMARY: NATIONAL CDE LEADERSHIP HAS CONDEMNED
ELECTION SET FOR OCT. 28 AND HAS ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL ITS
CANDIDATES. CDE STATEMENTS SAY CAMPAIGN WAS GREAT VICTORY
FOR CDE AND CALL FOR CDE ACTIVITY TO CONTINUE AFTER ELECTIONS.
PM CAETANO HAS ANNOUNCED MONTH'S BONUS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS.
MASS ANTI-ELECTION DEMONSTRATION CALLED FOR EVENING OCT. 25
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FIZZLED. END SUMMARY

1. LEADERS OF CDE LEFT-WING ELECTORAL COALITION MET OCT. 24 AND DREW UP COMMUNIQUE CONDEMNING PORTUGUESE ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND GOP'S ACTION DURING CAMPAIGN, CONCLUDING WITH CALL FOR CDE CANDIDATES TO WITHDRAW. AT SUBSEQUENT MASS MEETING IN LISBON, ASSEMBLY VOTED NEARLY UNANIMOUSLY TO PULL OUT. COMMUNIQUE READ AT NINE CDE RALLIES IN LISBON DISTRICT EVENING OCT WRN DRAWING ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF AUDIENCES. COMMUNIQUE DETAILS ACTIONS OF GOP ALLEGEDLY AIMED AT FRUSTRATING CDE'S ACTIVITIES, BUT PROCLAIMS GREAT VICTORY FOR CDE IN "INFORMING THE PEOPLE" AND IN STRENGTHENING "DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT." FORMAL WITHDRAWAL OF ALL CDE CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED AT PRESS CONFERENCE OCT. 25.

2. PM CAETANO, WHO WILL MAKE TV ADDRESS TO NATION OCT. 26, GRANTED INTERVIEW TO LARGE-CIRCULATION DIARIO DE NOTICIAS OCT. 25. MOST OF INTERVIEW COVERED BREAD-AND-BUTTER ISSUES; CAETANO ANNOUNCED YEAR-END BONUS FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES (WHO HAPPEN TO CONSTITUTE SIGNIFICANT CHUNK OF REGISTERED VOTERS). (INTERVIEW BEING REPORTED BY AIRGRAM.)

3. UNSIGNED LEAFLETS DISTRIBUTED IN LISBON CALLED FOR MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION EVENING OF OCT. 25 TO PROTEST HIGH COST OF LIVING. LARGE POLICE DEPLOYMENT PREVENTED CROWD FROM FORMING AND DEMONSTRATION NEVER GOT STARTED. SEVERAL ARRESTS REPORTED.

4. COMMENT: ELECTION CAMPAIGN FAILED GENERATE MUCH EXCITEMENT IN PORTUGAL BECAUSE (1) ANP SWEEP IS BUILT INTO THE SYSTEM (2) ANP HAD MOVED RIGHT AND OPPOSITION HAD MOVED LEFT SINCE 1969 CONTEST, AND (3) CDE HAD MADE IT CLEAR THEY WERE NOT GOING TO CONTEST ELECTION ANYWAY. WE FEEL CDE VOTE WOULD HAVE BEEN SMALL, SINCE MANY ANTI-REGIME CITIZENS ARE UNPREPARED FOR RADICALISM OF CDE APPROACH. CDE CAN NOW CLAIM DOUBLE VICTORY: THAT ITS LONG-RANGE POLITICAL OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN MET, AND THAT PERSONS WHO DO NOT VOTE ARE THEREBY INDICATING CDE SUPPORT.

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POST

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